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From the Editor's Desk

Growing orchids into impressive specimen plants is a goal for many nurserymen and enthusiasts. Bill Thoms has received more cultural awards for the *Bulbophyllum* alliance in the USA than any other grower. In this issue he provides many tips for successful culture on this genus, with many of the protocols most useful for a range of other orchid genera. On the same theme, Jim Cootes with George Tiong introduce readers to an unusual and rare colour form of an impressive *Bulbophyllum* species, whose flowers seem to mimic those from the New World genus *Masdevallia*.

Alan Hope discusses an orange-flowered *Ascocentrum* species that (whilst the name is well known) is uncommon and often misinterpreted in cultivation.

Phil Spence shares with us interesting stories and photographs of some stunning high elevation orchids from the mountains of Papua New Guinea. Phil has made many trips to PNG over the past fifty years and is very familiar with the forests and their orchids.

Murray Shergold discusses a South African epiphytic species from the genus *Mystacidium*. See the back page advertisement for details about the Orchid Tour to South Africa in September 2014 for the 21st World Orchid Conference. Mark Clements described a new species of *Jumellea* from Madagascar. The Type is from seed-raised plants that were discovered by Murray & Jean Shergold of Easy Orchids on one of their many trips to this unique island.

David Jones with Chris French describes a new species of Donkey Orchid from Western Australia, from the genus *Diuris*. We are very proud to publish such articles on Australian native orchids in the AOR.

Bob Saunders from Casino showcases some of the outstanding *Cattleya* hybrids that were hybridised by the late Gordon Vallance. Many of these hybrids have been awarded and are clearly world class examples. Gordon Giles has another chat about staking Cymbidiums for show.

There is a lot happening around the orchid scene at this time of year. The National Orchid Extravaganza is being held at Dural NSW in early August. The St Ives Orchid Fair is on from 16-18 August 2013 at St Ives Showground NSW. Fred Clarke from Sunset Valley Orchids in California USA will have a sales booth offering a wide range of quality orchid flasks for sale, especially *Catasetum* and related genera and the latest *Cattleya* hybrids. This is a rare opportunity of both up-grading your collection whilst adding new genetic material to the commercial Australian orchid scene.

The Victorian International Orchid Fair and Melbourne Orchid Spectacular is being held in Keysborough Victoria from 23-25 August 2013. On the same dates is the ANOS Conference in Brisbane, Queensland. On 31 August and 1 September 2013 is the annual *Dendrobium speciosum* Spectacular at Kempsey, NSW. It looks like being a great flowering year for this species complex.

David Banks
Australian Orchid Review
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com



AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2013

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Editorial copy:

Articles for publication and consideration should be sent to:
AOR Editor, David P. Banks, 39 Carole Street, Seven Hills, NSW 2147
Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

All other correspondence to:

AOR Publisher, Hills Orchid Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 4812, North Rocks, NSW 2151
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Cover Shot

Dendrobium habbemense
is a spectacular high elevation species from the mountains of Papua New Guinea. Read about this and other colourful species in the article by Phil Spence.

Introduction to *Bulbophyllum* Culture

by Bill Thoms

With the current interest in this extremely large and diverse genus, I thought it would be helpful to cover the basics of growing and blooming them. I call this the "WAFL-HS" (Waffle House) growing style because the six letters stand for all the philosophy required to grow and bloom any plant. Getting the most from your efforts.

WATER

Bulbophyllums (hereafter called *Bulbos*) grow primarily in conditions of extremely high rainfall and/or humidity, the opposite of cacti and succulents. Consequently, they take in water very slowly since it is available for long periods of time. Therefore, to get the best growth in your plants at home, water should also be available for long periods of time. This can be summed up in the three words "MORE WATER LONGER". I achieve this with plastic pots and good quality long-fibre sphagnum moss. I use Styrofoam peanuts for drainage but fir bark, charcoal, rocks or something else would be almost as good. The drainage sounds counter to the idea of More Water Longer, but constantly soggy plants is always bad. Watering thoroughly (either from all sides or watering twice) gets the sphagnum as wet as possible. Allowing the plants to dry somewhat before re-watering is ideal. I occasionally (yes, even I, a documented hose-a-holic) let them go bone dry. This antisocial behaviour is actually rewarded by having to water even more to get the sphagnum wet again since it becomes water-repellent when allowed to become that dry. I only do this once a month or so.

AIR

Good air circulation is critical for optimum growth. The plants need this both day and night since important growing processes take place 24 hours a day. It needs to be fresh, moving air too. Don't do this; just imagine doing it, since

I wish to avoid any subsequent liability. Take a plastic bag, cover your mouth and nose and breathe in and out for a while. As you begin to grow faint, realise that, while there is still "stuff" in the bag, it no longer is the "stuff" you require to be at your best. Your plants are no different, so be sure to provide them with fresh, moving air day and night.

FOOD

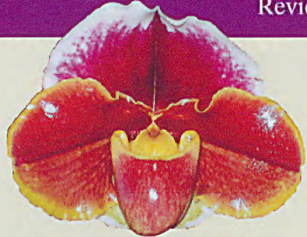
All living things need food of some sort. Getting it on a regular basis would be a nice thing too. Plants get very little nourishment from their medium so to get them to grow their best, food must be given. Since I am the world's most humble grower, I will only mention once that Doris and I recently received our 97th Cultural Award and I have 42 in the *Bulbophyllum* alliance. Feeding a small amount regularly (WEAKLY - WEEKLY) will do wonders for your plants, your ego and your reputation among your jealous fellow growers and neighbours. Some foods are better than others but, "any food is better than no food". To get your food to go farther, water first so you use less since you aren't watering your plants, you are feeding them, which is very different.

LIGHT

I like bright shade. VERY bright shade. When you notice leaf burn, you know how much bright shade is too much bright shade. Good light for Vandas is too much for *Phalaenopsis*. There are more *bulbos* than any other genus and there is a tremendous diversity among them. I grow many different kinds so I grow the ones that prefer brighter light higher up and the ones that prefer darker light lower down. Simple. Seedlings and compots always prefer lower amounts of bright shade. I have been growing *bulbos* for over 40 years and over that time have figured out which like what. Generally, the thinner the leaf, the lower the light. *Bulbophyllum lobbii* with its wide thin leaf likes lower

light than *Bulbophyllum frostii* (the Dutch-Shoe Orchid) with its thick stiff leaf. You have to learn the needs of your plants by learning the light conditions in your own growing area. Morning light is cooler than afternoon light. The sun position changes quite a bit from summer to winter, which affects the plants in many ways. A plant in the shade of a tree in the summer might be in the sun in the fall and/or winter. Longer days in the summer provide much more sun time than in the winter. There are many other examples I could cite, but why belabour the point? If you hold a leaf for several seconds, you can determine its temperature. If it hot to the touch, it is too hot. If it is cold to the touch, it is too cold.

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CONTRIBUTIONS**

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and electronic files are clearly marked with
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Address editorial to:
David P. Banks (Editor)
Australian Orchid Review
39 Carole Street, Seven Hills
NSW 2147 AUSTRALIA

Email:
david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

AOR 005

HOME

There are as many kinds of growing styles as there are growers. I like good quality long fibre sphagnum moss and plastic pots, as stated before. Here is a quick demonstration of how I pot.

- 1: active root growth on plant needing repotting.
- 2: plant out of pot; sphagnum is still in good shape so retain.
- 3: plant in new, larger pot with more Styrofoam added.
- 4: new sphagnum moss added but not firmed in yet.
- 5: sphagnum moss firmed in.
- 6: pot clip made for plastic pot from 12-16 gauge wire (from old hangers).
- 7: final product with tag dated to protect from memory loss. Jim Sabetto advised me to put an extra tag in the bottom of the pot to protect from fading, loss or other problems.

If you grow your plants mounted, be aware that they will dry out much more quickly and that usually leads to shrunken bulbs and fewer flowers. If they are mounted and the bulbs aren't shrunken, they are probably too dark which leads to fewer flowers. If you have the mounts horizontal rather than vertical, they will dry out more slowly. You can drill holes in each corner and use *Vanda* basket hangers which will keep them steady. Remember that fertiliser salts build up in any medium and eventually become toxic to the plant, so watch your mounts for tell-tale white crust which precedes the decline of your plant. Jeff Morris in Virginia showed me a neat way to grow. He takes a conical wire basket, turns it upside down and uses the coconut husk liner (sometimes inside, sometimes outside) as water-retainer. Then he uses sphagnum under the plant and wires it all together. This provides the plant a mounded environment open underneath which aids in good air circulation and better light to all the bulbs. This old dog just learned a new trick.

SICKNESS

Bulbos aren't as susceptible to problems as many orchids, which is probably why I found them more fun than other plants when I was beginning this wonderful hobby. They don't get as many insects, (cockroaches and crickets are the big problems, fixed with sprays found at the local Garden Centre), and sometimes they will get Boisduval Scale. I like Neem Oil, which isn't harmful to get on you, can't make the insects



1 Plant needing repotting



2 Out of pot showing roots



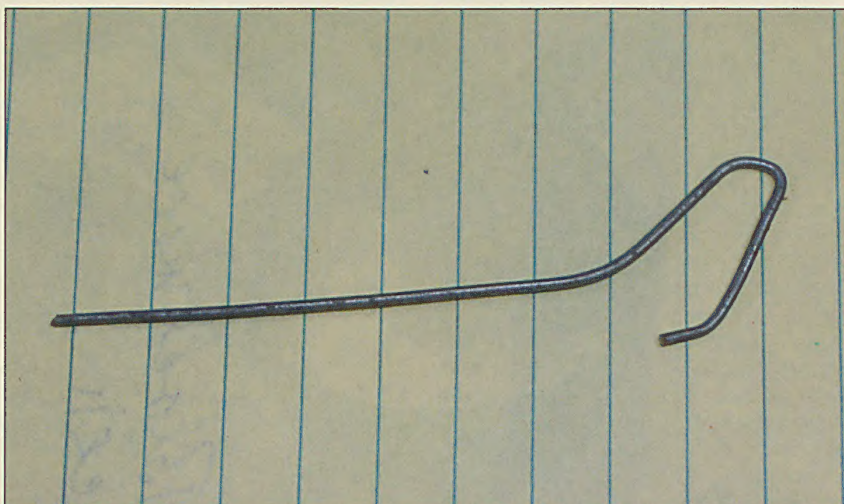
3 In new pot with more styrofoam peanuts



4 More sphagnum added



5 Sphagnum firmed in



6 Homemade clip for plastic pots

(or fungus) immune and is readily available. The biggest problem is molluscs (slugs and snails) which come because you are now growing them with MORE WATER LONGER. Slug baits work fine. Leaf spots of various kinds show up now and then from a variety of causes. Take an example in an enclosed bag to one of your society's good growers and ask "What do I have and how do I fix it?", politely. They will usually be glad to help. I like to cheat. I READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS!!! Finally, I spray when it is (and is going to continue to be) COOL. That means late afternoon so the plants are covered with whatever I have sprayed on them longer and the sun isn't beating on them.

In conclusion, Master Growers are excellent observers. Have a friend put some old coins around and on your plants and then look for them. This will teach you how to be a better observer, which is how you spot problems before they become major infestations.

If you grow your plants in bright shade with good, fresh air movement day and night while keeping them moist, feed them regularly and keep the problems down, you will be rewarded with super growth and lots of flowers. Isn't that what you are spending your time and money for in the first place?

(Bill Thoms and Doris Dukes with her dog, Sasha and his kitty, Misty live in Valrico, Florida USA. He wrote the book; *Bulbophyllums; the Incomplete Guide, From A to WHY?* The annual American Orchid Society Bulbophyllum Award is named after Bill. He will happily answer questions by email (dukesthoms@verizon.net).

Bill Thoms

Valrico, Florida USA

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Bulbophyllum bicolor
'Kaylee Marie'
CCM/AOS



Bulbophyllum A-doribil
Candy Ann
AQ/AOS
(*A-doribil* Candy x
annandalei)





Above: *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum*
'Kaylee Marie' CCE/AOS

Below: *Bulbophyllum Doris Dukes* 'A-doribil'
CCE/AOS (*rothschildianum* x *fascinator*)



Above: *Bulbophyllum longissimum*
'A-doribil Three-Peat' CCM/AOS



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AOR 126



Above: *Bulbophyllum mastersianum* 'Yong's A-doribil Gift'
AM-CCM/AOS

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AOR 039



Above: *Bulbophyllum* Glen Gary 'A-doribil' (Wilbur Chang x *sumatranum*)



Left:
Bulbophyllum phalaenopsis
'A-doribil'
AM-CCM/AOS

Below:
Bulbophyllum Karen Lewis
(*phalaenopsis* x *echinolabium*)



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AOR 010

An Unusual Colour Form of *Bulbophyllum maxillare*

by Jim Cootes and George Tiong

In February 2013, whilst on holiday in the Philippines, one of our friends, Wally Suarez, alerted us to an unusual colour form of *Bulbophyllum maxillare*, which he had recently photographed at one of the larger, local orchid nurseries.

Bulbophyllum maxillare is now considered a member of the Section *Polymeres*, in accordance with the recent pronouncement by Dr. Jaap Vermeulen and Peter O'Byrne. Previously this species was classified as belonging to the Section *Ephippium*.

Dr. John Lindley first named this species in 1843 as *Cirrhopetalum maxillare*, and was subsequently transferred to *Bulbophyllum* by Prof. Heinrich G. Reichenbach in 1861. This species has a wide distribution, and has been recorded from Peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Philippines, Sulawesi, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and northern Australia (where it was well-known as *Bulbophyllum*

masdevalliaceum). In the Philippines, this species may be seen growing as an epiphyte, in swamp forest at sea level. It has also been reported that *Bulbophyllum maxillare* grows on limestone, in stunted forest, at elevations of between 400 and 500 metres in Sulawesi. According to the late Jim Comber, this species grows at 1,200 metres elevation in western Java. In Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore, it grows as a lowland species. *Bulbophyllum blumei* (Kuntze) J.J.Sm., is a later synonym (1905).

This species has an upright habit, with pseudobulbs at intervals of 5-7 cm. Each pseudobulb is about 3 cm tall by 1.5 cm in diameter, and is topped by a single ovate-elliptic, leathery leaf measuring up to 15 cm long by 2.5 cm wide. Normally the flowers of *Bulbophyllum maxillare* are wine-red in colour, with a yellow border around the edges of the lateral sepals, and white hairs around the edges of the dorsal sepal, while the labellum is coloured reddish-brown. Imagine our great surprise when we saw pictures of a pure yellow (xanthic) form of the species! My only regret is that I did not see the flower personally, but I did get to see the plant, which sadly was only of 2 pseudobulbs in size. The bloom is about 6.5 cm in height by 2 cm across the widest point. It did have a pale orange labellum, that may preclude it from being a pure albino form. A most delightful feature of this species is its uncanny resemblance to the blooms of the central and South American genus *Masdevallia*.



Bulbophyllum maxillare
yellow form
(photo Wally Suarez)



Bulbophyllum maxillare
yellow form, showing
labellum detail
(photo Wally Suarez)

Bulbophyllum maxillare
normal coloured form
(photo Jim Cootes)



This plant can be grown either in shallow seedling trays or on mounts of tree fern fibre. Mounts do not have to be too wide but they do need to be fairly long - pieces about 15 to 20 cm in length, by 5 cm in width, are suitable - in order to accommodate the distance between the pseudobulbs. The potting mix needs to be free-draining, typically containing pine bark (75%), pebbles (20%) and perlite (5%), to hold a little moisture around the roots. Plants will also grow well in sphagnum moss, but this needs to be changed every couple of years. Our plants of the normal coloured flowers are grown in a heated glasshouse, which is kept at a minimum of 12 degrees Celsius during the winter months. High humidity, 70% shade, constant air movement, and regular applications of both organic and inorganic fertilisers at half of the manufacturer's recommendation, are important requirements.

It is to be hoped that this beautiful yellow coloured form of *Bulbophyllum maxillare* would be self-pollinated or mericloned and made available to orchid growers for their enjoyment, both locally and internationally.

Our sincere thanks to Wally Suarez for sharing his pictures, so that they can be seen by a much wider audience.

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Jim Cootes

Email: jamescootes@optusnet.com.au

George Tiong

Email: gtiong1@hotmail.com

Ascocentrum miniatum
mature plant in bloom



The True *Ascocentrum miniatum*

Text and photos by Alan Hope

Ascocentrum is an Asian monopodial genus comprising about half a dozen species closely related to the much larger *Vanda*. The species are found throughout south-east Asia and also extend to India, southern China and the Philippines. The four most commonly known and cultivated species are *A. garayi* (orange) *A. miniatum* (orange), *A. curvifolium* (red) and *A. ampullaceum* (pink).

Ascocentrum miniatum is the Type species for the genus. It is a small species with curved 'vanda' shaped green leaves and a wandering root system. I have grown my plant from seedling stage and it was 'potted on' around five years ago into a larger plastic slat basket. The mix comprises coarse bark, similar

sized scoria rocks and cork chunks which are squeezed into the basket to keep the plant and mix in place. This mix ensures excellent drainage, an important requirement in *Ascocentrum* culture as the plant will decline in a heavy/wet mix.

My plant is housed in a cool glasshouse throughout the year and is hung about 40cm below the north facing glass. Shading is provided by 50% shade cloth while a fan runs continuously; an evaporative cooler and extra shade cloth is provided over the hot summer months. Watering is more frequent while the plant is in active growth and is reduced from late autumn to mid spring.

While *A. miniatum* is a tropical orchid, its range from sea level to 1,200m (almost 4,000 feet) allows for intermediate to cool growing conditions and hence being able to grow and flower *A. miniatum* in Melbourne. During winter the plant is kept drier and some additional heat provided to ward off

frosts. Flowering is reliable and occurs in early to mid-March (autumn) with the racemes developing rapidly. The many small (7-8mm) orange/red flowers tend to open together and remain in good condition for up to six weeks making them a welcome addition in the glasshouse.



Ascozentrum miniatum
note the missing pollen
caps on some of the
lower flowers

Ascocentrum miniatum and *Ascocentrum garayi*

Many orchid growers with heated glasshouses have one or more plants of an orange-flowered *Ascocentrum* species in their hothouse. If they've had it for more than five years or so, it's likely to be incorrectly named *Ascocentrum miniatum*. The following quote by Jim Cootes has been reproduced from an issue of the *Orchid SPECIES (NSW) Newsletter*.

"At a recent meeting there was a lively debate about two *Ascocentrum* species, *A. miniatum* and *A. garayi*. The problem with the names of these two species has arisen because *Ascocentrum miniatum* has been used as a dumping ground for any orange-flowered species within this genus.

The two species are readily separable by the leaves of the plants alone. The foliage of *A. garayi* is very thick and straight, and is heavily spotted with brownish-red markings on the upper surface. The flowers of *A. garayi* are a clear, bright orange in colour. The specific epithet honours

Dr. Leslie Garay, an orchid taxonomist who did much work to broaden our knowledge of the vandaceous genera and their species, and who is now working on the Bulbophyllinae.

The leaves of *A. miniatum* are noticeably curved, of thin texture and are **not** spotted. The flowers of *A. miniatum* are more of an orange-red shade. The specific epithet is from the Latin word *miniatus*, meaning 'with the colour of cinnabar'.

It was not until the late 1990s that these species were sorted out by Dr. Eric Christenson of the New York Botanic Gardens. At this time he named the commonly seen *A. garayi*, which occurs throughout Thailand, Myanmar, Indochina and Peninsular Malaysia. *A. miniatum* is a rare species, known only from Java and some of its surrounding islands."

So have a good look at your orange-flowered *Ascocentrum* species and confirm which one you have.

Alan Hope

Email: aehmelb@yahoo.com.au



Ascocentrum miniatum
group of flowers



Valley with forests
on the slopes, with
grasslands and treeferns

Some very rare highland orchid species from *Papua New Guinea*

by Phil Spence

On our 2008 tour to Papua New Guinea, that was hosted by Dr. Geoff Stocker and myself, we were fortunate to find in full bloom four rare endemic species of *Dendrobium*. Three of these *Dendrobium* belonging to the Section *Pedilonum*; *D. aurantiroseum*, *D. nothofagicola* and one of which has possibly yet to be described species closely related to *D. nothofagicola*. It has similar leaves and pseudobulbs, but the flowers were closer to *D. aurantiroseum*. The other two species *Dendrobium* belong to the Section *Oxyglossum*; *D. habbemense* and *D. decockii*.

Papua New Guinea has a very diverse range of climates and ecology from hot steamy or dry coastal forests, these most people are aware of as they are often seen on television. The very high mountains are less known about, let alone their

small stunted forests that have open grasslands with small pockets of treefern forests along the streams. It is these alpine regions of the high mountains 1700 to 3700m that the treefern forests are found and are hosts to two of these *Dendrobium* species, *D. nothofagicola* and a species closely related to *D. aurantiroseum*.

At the edge of the grasslands and treefern forests, the vegetation is also stunted. Often in these forests there can be seen many beautiful flowering trees and shrub including a wide variety of *Vireya* *Rhododendrons*. Also, two more species of *Dendrobium* can be found, *D. aurantiroseum* and *D. habbemense*. These stunted mist forests are wet for about 12 to 18 hours a day. The plants grow in fairly low light during the day yet in the early morning or late afternoon depending

on what aspect or side of the host the plant or plants are growing, the sun from the sunrise or setting sun streaks at a low angle through the forest and the plants are almost in full sun except for the mist haze that filters the sunshine.

I find these species fascinating in that they have adapted to different habitats. Let me explain. With *Dendrobium aurantiroseum* it is difficult to find when not in flower but can be found easily when in bloom. Because the bulk of the plant is deeply buried in a heavy carpet of moss covering the host trees trunk or limbs with only the tips of the leaves and flowers protruding out of the moss. There is often a fern growing in the same moss that seems to mimic the orchid or maybe the orchid is mimicking the fern. It is only when *D. aurantiroseum* wants to show it's beautiful flowers that one can appreciate the splendour of this species.

An undescribed *Dendrobium* species is found in the treefern forests and unlike the last species it likes lots of light and grows up near the fronds on the trunk of treefern in the roots that form the main trunk. The flowers are very similar to the previous species but the plant has cherry shaped pseudobulbs of similar size, shape and colour. I have found this species three times and only once growing in profusion and that was on Mt. Scratchley (3810m) , next time we found a solitary plant in flower and that was on Mt. Wilhelm (4590m). This *Dendrobium* species is extremely rare and is possibly unnamed, keep in mind that PNG has a large orchid population, the largest in the world, and there are still a lot of orchids that have not been seen as yet. I am purposely avoiding the revealing of the exact localities of these species in this article so as to protect them from being stripped from their habitats.

Dendrobium nothofagicola has a habitat very similar to the last species except that it is found in the trees at the edge of the grass lands and on the odd occasion in the tops of tree ferns. The plants found in the forest edge have pseudobulbs that have elongated to about 40mm while the plants that are found in treefern forests have pseudobulbs that are about the size of cherries.

With the first three species the best populations are found at 2500-3000m and it seems to be as the altitude increases to 3500 the colours become more intense.

Dendrobium habbemense is among the larger flowering species in the *Dendrobium* Section *Pedilonum*. It has long thin pendulous pseudobulbs about 35cm long, thickening where the leaves are. These pseudobulbs often having a few branching pseudobulbs from its one - two pseudobulbs. Roots are green heavily pigmented in dark red. Spectacular species when in full flower, this happens when the pseudobulbs lose their leaves and surprisingly can flower for many years from the defoliated pseudobulbs. Flowers can be seen from a long way off, as the red is very brilliant.

The stunning species *Dendrobium decockii* grows on twigs or well exposed boughs at the forest edge or even on stunted trees out in open clearings with the alpine grasslands or sphagnum swamps. *D. decockii* is a miniature orchid and a large clump would be 3cm across and about 2.5 cm tall including flowers.

All these species are bird pollinated and the birds are attracted by translucent honey sweet nectar for their reward it is excreted and found inside the flower at the column foot. This nectar is frequently in such large amounts that it flows



Lake and stunted forests

and drips from the flowers leaving the flowers coated in the dry nectar and giving the appearance that the flowers are glossy enamelled.

The pollen is grey black and the bird's beak is of a similar colour it has probably developed this colour to avoid detection by the birds. Just in passing most *Dendrobiums* have yellow pollen.

All these *Dendrobium* species flower at no set time throughout the year with some flowerings heavier than others. The flowers can last 3-6 months and *D. habbemense* possibly up to 8-9 months.

The reason the flowers last a long time is because the pollinators are few and far between at these high altitudes. So the bright colours, the reward of nectar and the flowers long lasting attributes go a long way to attracting the honey eating birds. Once the honeyeater finds a flower they drive their beak into where the nectar is and in doing so snaps the labellum (lip) back away from the flower.

Dendrobium habbemense is found in fairly dense alpine moss forests hanging down from the upper canopy on boughs of trees or on thin young trees, that have a light to medium moss covering the plants on small diameter trees up to 10cm are usually the home to the best and the most showy plants. *D. habbemense* can also be found growing in very low light about 30cm from the ground with the tips of the pseudobulbs

almost touching the ground. These plants get the early morning or late afternoon light at an acute angle through the trees.

Moss forests get fine to medium rain nearly every day in the mid afternoon for several hours then ceases near dusk. The sun comes out, but is short lived as a heavy fog thickens the air and renders it impossible to find your way in the forest. As night falls the mist clears to the point the stars can be seen unless raining but the trees drip water all the time even when it is not raining. The mist rebuilds again as the night progresses, then starts falling and drifting in to lower valleys just before daybreak. Then it is quickly evaporated by the sun only to reform the next afternoon, so changing the scenery by the hour or minute.

Seed capsules can sit for around 9 months before they split, but can last on a plant for up to 18 months and only disperse in the dry of the day or during a dry spell just before the rain starts.

With most *Dendrobium* the seed is golden yellow to white but with these species the seed is pea green and has a very short viability of only 2-3 weeks, this is probably due to the seed green colour.

Orchid seed does not have a food source like beans, but relies on a fungal association to transport the food in the form of sugars to the embryo. Green seeds are very rare among orchid species.

Grasslands with treeferns



Inside a moss forest





Dendrobium aurantiroseum
(species affin)



Dendrobium aurantiroseum

Another interesting thing with the seed capsules is most orchid seed capsules slightly split and let the countless thousands of seed slowly release to the breeze, but with these five species, time is of the essence and they split with a vengeance. When the capsule opens, often with a pop, showering all the seed to the breeze at once during the short dry time of the day.

I have also included a photo of a rarer and seldom seen species in *Octarrhena bilabrata*. This species had eluded me over the 48 years that I have been associated with the Alpine forests, the highlands and lowlands forests of Papua New Guinea. *Octarrhena bilabrata* grows at the edge of the alpine moss forests at around 4000m on Mt. Wilhelm PNG. The plant in the photos was approximately 100mm long and was growing pendulous. Interestingly, growing with this species was *Octarrhena filiformis* that has pencil-like leaves.

Anyone growing these rare species should put seed pods on them and in turn raise or have them raised from seed and distribute the seedlings as much as possible.

Unfortunately I have had only small amounts of old seed to raise and have had very little success with all but one of these species. I have none of these plants in my collection and the small amount of seed that germinated has been passed on to a person more suited to grow this species.

Dendrobium Section
Pedilonum:
 new species, plant in flower



So in short, all of these species are difficult to grow and to the best of my knowledge none of them are commercially available in Australia. Sadly, it is very difficult to replicate the very high (3500-4300m) moss forests of Papua New Guinea. But it is such a pleasure to see these botanical gems in the wild.

Phil Spence

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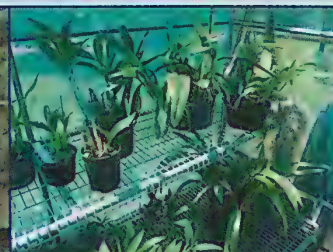
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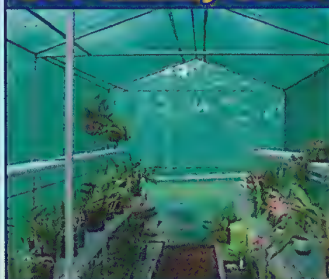
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Dendrobium nothofagicola



Dendrobium habbemense
plant on tree





Left:
Dendrobium habbemense

Below:
Dendrobium habbemense



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Above: *Dendrobium decockii* host tree with flowering plants

Left: Tree hosting *Dendrobium decockii*
at Mt. Wilhelm

Below: *Dendrobium decockii*





Octarrhena bilabrata
plant



Octarrhena bilabrata



Mystacidium brayboniae
(photo: Lourens Grobler)

Mystacidium brayboniae

by Murray Shergold

Mystacidium brayboniae is among the seriously attractive vandaceous and fragrant miniatures of South Africa. As Lourens Grobler's excellent picture shows, in flower it is just like a compact snowball and of course it is fragrant at night, a feature of these types of orchids.

After years of collecting in the wild, *Mystacidium brayboniae* is now only found in a very tiny area close to the Limpopo River in northern South Africa and soon may be close to extinct in the wild it seems. Easy Orchids, with their extensive long term contacts in South Africa have continued to grow

batches of this species from seed as they have found Aussie growers have an ongoing hunger for all mystacidiums and they are easy to grow.

Best results are achieved growing on tree fern mounts and whilst it has been generally agreed that growth is slightly better in lower light, recent research tends to suggest flowering is more prolific in higher light. *Mystacidium brayboniae* is such a tough critter that once started ex flask it can be said it is hard to kill and flowers from the time the leaf span reaches around 70mm across, with increasing numbers of blooms annually.

The following notes were published by Bruce Murray on *Zoutnet* in South Africa in December 2012.

"A relatively scarce orchid species that occurs in the Soutpansberg is causing scientists to scratch their heads. After lengthy studies, the academics can still not determine how these plants are pollinated and they believe this may provide a vital clue to its limited distribution.

A botanist from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Florent Martos, recently spent a week in the Soutpansberg, attempting to observe what agents are responsible for the pollination of this small orchid with the scientific name *Mystacidium brayboniae*. The plant is endemic to the Soutpansberg and was thought to be a high-forest species. However, it is found more frequently in montane scrub and if it does occur in the forest, it is usually at the edges where there is more light. Its genus name refers to its "moustache"-like flower.

It is possible that this species limited distribution may have something to do with its pollinating agent, which may also be endemic to the Soutpansberg. The exercise was not successful, even though sophisticated technology and many long hours of observation were used to collect data. Among some of the other data collected, the scent of the flower is also harvested and analysed in a laboratory. Synthetically manufactured

components of the scent are then exposed to various insects and their brain activity is monitored, using microscopic sensors placed on the insects' antennae.

The plants are exclusively epiphytic, meaning that they live on trees but are not parasites. The plants flower in the middle to the end of November for about two weeks. Conservation status of the species is not certain; however, due to its limited distribution and overharvesting by collectors, it could be vulnerable."

21st World Orchid Conference in South Africa

To all who have shown their faith in Easy Orchids Tours, a big thank you for your booking. (See back cover of this issue.) To those who have expressed interest, thank you too. We promise to deliver a fabulous tour highlighting the 21st WOC in Johannesburg and all visits of interest as detailed on our website www.EasyOrchids.com Check the details at the website! We have the experience; we have the infrastructure and will provide a tour with enduring memories. If you have not booked yet, please do so today! Places are limited!

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A new species of *Jumellea* (Orchidaceae) from Madagascar

Text and images by Mark A. Clements

Abstract: A new species *Jumellea facilorchis*, from Madagascar is described to facilitate its introduction and recognition in science and within the horticultural trade.

Jumellea facilorchis M.A.Clem., spec. nov.

Affinity to *Jumellea teretifolia* Schltr. but differing in possession of distichous, oblong-ligulate, coriaceous, rigid, leaves and straight pendulous 11 cm long spur.

Type: cultivated Canberra, 3 July 2013, ORG 6361, propagated from seed ex Madagascar: Tampolo (holo CANB).

An erect to pendulous epiphytic monopodial herb. Stem simple, elongate, rigid, 2-3 mm wide 10-30 cm long, covered in persistent thick, scarios leaf-sheaths below, leafy distally, rooting at nodes, leaves, 12-22 mm apart. Leaves green, distichous, oblong-ligulate, obtusely unequally bi-lobed at the apex, coriaceous, rigid, slightly convexed adaxially, the abaxial mid-nerve not prominent for most of its length, more prominent near apex, 45-65 x 12-15 mm. Inflorescence i-flowered, porrect, axillary; pedicel relative short, mostly concealed by 4-5 obtuse, scarios, imbricate bracts, 2-15 long, each increasing in size towards the flower. Flowers white with light green spur, column and light reddish-brown anther cap. Pedicel and ovary light green, slender, slightly curved, 5 X 1.5 mm. Dorsal sepal erect then slightly recurved at about a third of its length, linear-acuminate, undulate margins in basla third, 30 x 4 mm. Lateral sepals linear-lanceolate, acute, spreading and reflexed near base, 25 x 3.5 mm. Petals porrect, narrowly linear-lanceolate, spreading, acuminate, 24-25 x 2.5 mm. Labellum porrect, rhombic, duplicate, narrow at base with undulate margins, with distinct filamentous apex to 10mm long, single central basal callus ridge extending about half the length of the narrow basal part, 28-30 X 2.5-7.5 mm; spur curved at base then straight, cylindrical, filiform, tapering evenly to apex, light green, ca. 120 mm long. Column oblong with two triangular acute stelidia, 5 x 5 x 3 mm. Anther cucullate, emarginate, 2 x 1.5. Pollinia yellow, ovoid, 1 x 1 mm. Figures 1-3.

Habitat: Epiphytic in small trees or adjacent to more open areas of coastal rainforest in the Masaola Peninsula along the west side of Helodrano Antongila Bay, ca. 5-200m.

Jumellea is a genus of approximately 40-45 species centred in Madagascar but also inhabiting the Comores, Mascarenes with 2 species in tropical Africa (Du Puy et al. 1999; Hermans et al. 2007; Cribb and Hermans, 2009). The overall similarity of many species in *Jumellea* makes identification sometimes difficult species mostly being delimited by a combination of floral and vegetative characters rather than one strikingly different character. *Jumellea facilorchis* is no different.

Whilst the new species bears some resemblance to *J. gracilipes* which also occurs in same region of Madagascar, and *J. similis* Schltr. from Antonanarivo in central Madagascar, nevertheless it does not fit comfortably within either of those species concepts. Although there are floral similarities, the new species differs from *J. gracilipes* which is a stemless plant, in the possession of elongate stems with flat, coriaceous leaves. Likewise, the erect plants habit, linear-ligulate erect leaves, slightly twisted spur and acuminate midlobe of labellum isolates *Jumellea similis* from *Jumellea facilorchis*. Florally *J. teretifolia* is most similar to the new species, although the twisted spur easily distinguishes them apart as does the terete leaves of the former.

Etymology: Derived from the Latin *facil-* easy and *orchis* another genus of orchids, in reference to the proprietors of Easy Orchids, Murray and Jean Shergold who discovered this species during one of their many trips to Madagascar.

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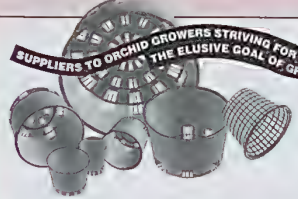
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Dr Mark A. Clements
Research Scientist

Centre for Australian National Biodiversity Research
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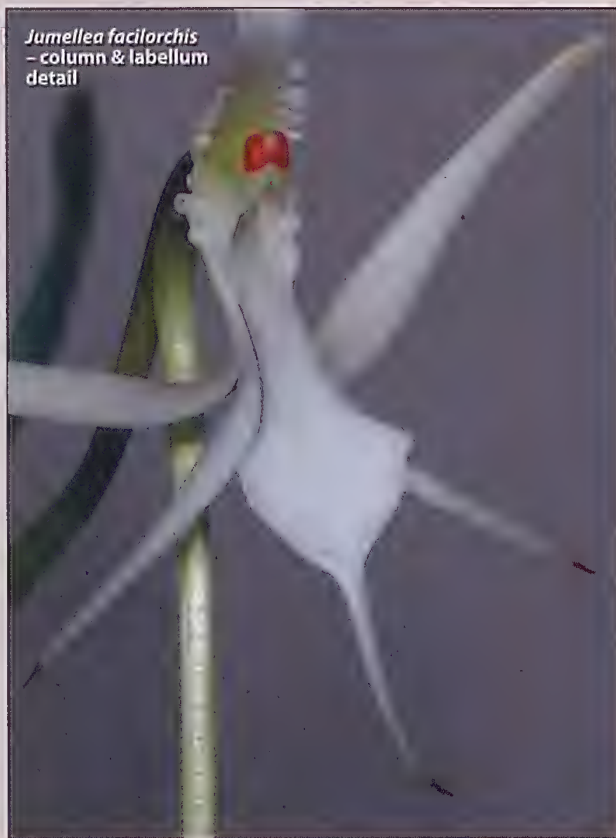
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Sensible discussion desired on exhibition of Cymbidiums

By Gordon Giles

I believe the articles published recently in the *Australian Orchid Review* by Keith Wallace and I have created lively discussions among members at some Orchid Clubs. Let us look at this whole issue of benching orchids for judging at exhibitions sensibly.

I have been involved in the judging of different forms of Horticulture and I can tell you that prior to exhibition, anything can and is done to present the exhibit in as near as possible to the expected perfect formation for that particular genus.

For many years I had a friend who was a fanatical *Dahlia* grower and exhibitor. I even helped him prepare flowers for exhibition. There was even a plastic tool that you could buy that was used to make each petal into the correct shape. You had to be careful not to bruise the flower parts or your exhibit would not be considered.

Indeed in all forms of judging some form of manipulation of the plant, animal or even person is practised. However imagine the humour that would occur if say in a beauty parade, the model still had a curler or two in place to make her hairstyle perfect.

Go behind the scene at a cattle show and see how the tail is tied in ribbons to get the required style. However, before going before the judges all signs of this are removed. To anyone involved in bonsai, they would know that there are wires that are used to train the plant parts to the desired shape. While you may see the plants for sale with the wires still in place, for exhibition they are removed. With bonsai plants you have to remember that the idea is to distort the plant but it still has to look natural.

And so to Cymbidiums; the flowers can be and often are manipulated by packing with tissue paper. Tissue paper, which leaves no evidence, is used in



preference to cotton wool which leaves fibres on the flowers. Flower buds are spaced or turned by using cardboard or plastic to achieve a better show. All of this is quite legal but have to be removed prior to judging.

The rules used to say there should be no visible signs of manipulation, this rule is never enforced unless there is some cotton wool still in evidence, but the smarties know this thus the use of tissues. However they are quite specific that the inflorescence/raceme can only be tied to the bottom flower. This is a sensible rule as it shows those viewing the exhibits to know what to expect should they purchase a piece of a similar clone.

Apart from the aesthetics the rule should be enforced to protect other growers from being led astray. Take a look at the Grand Champion in the 2012 National Orchid Extravaganza at Dural *Cymbidium* Golden Embers 'Golden Teepee', you can see that the raceme is tied using a cable tie to the top flower. Surely this is not where we all want our hobby to end up.

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*Cymbidium Kimberley
Khan 'Kentlyn'*





Dendrobium Hilda Poxon
'Macquarie Redlip'
(photo: Mike Harrison)

7th Australasian Native Orchid Conference and Show

Show open Friday 23rd Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th August 2013

ANOS KABI Group has been busy organising and preparing for the event that is the ANOS National Conference and Show held every 3 years. It has been 20 years since there was an ANOS conference and show in Queensland. ANOS KABI and local societies want to show what we can do and the orchids we grow that may not be seen often in southern states or see some plants from the southern states we may not see other than in books and pictures.

The show will be held at the Strathpine Community Centre, Cnr Gympie Rd & Mecklem St, Strathpine, Qld just north of Brisbane.

There are special prizes for long distance entries as well as commercial, society and public categories. Top prize money for the show is for Grand Champion of \$1000 and \$500 for Reserve Champion. There are also section champions worth \$250 each and the list goes on with over \$7000 in prize money for those that put in the effort.

The show will have large floor displays as well as table top displays and the regular single entry plant option. You do not need to be a member of an orchid society to enter the open show. Only plants from the Australasian region can be shown.

Whilst it is the 7th Australasian Native Orchid Conference & Show, there is also the milestone of it being ANOS Inc 50th anniversary. The Conference cocktail and banquet events will celebrate this milestone. The cocktail party will be held in the show hall amongst the orchids and displays so registrants and guests will be the first to see the beautiful plants, displays and winners.

The Banquet will be held at the Community Centre, Kedron Wavell Services Club, Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside with music and entertainment for our dinners while enjoying great food wine and company. For anyone interested in any of the Conference or show items please go to our web site for more information www.ourshopfront.com/kabi

There will be light refreshments and meals for lunch at the venue so come along, see the orchids share some time with others that share your interest over a cuppa and perhaps pick up a plant or two and supplies from our vendors. We look forward to sharing our passion of our Australasian native orchids with everyone that would like to come and enjoy our show. ■

Harald Geppert

President ANOS KABI

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Email: h_gepp@hotmail.com



Dendrobium Elegant Lace
(photo: D.P. Banks)

Diuris tinkeri
Eneabba, WA
250891



Diuris tinkeri
Eneabba, WA
(top view)
250891

Diuris tinkeri, a new species in the *Diuris corymbosa* complex from Western Australia with affinities to *Diuris magnifica*

by David L. Jones & Christopher J. French

Abstract

Diuris tinkeri, part of the complex of species surrounding *D. corymbosa* Lindley in Western Australia, and with affinities to *D. magnifica*, is described as new.

Key Words

Orchidaceae, *Diuris tinkeri*, *Diuris corymbosa*, *Diuris magnifica*, new species, Western Australia, Australian flora.

Introduction

Continuing studies in Western Australia into a complex of species surrounding *Diuris corymbosa* Lindley have revealed a number of new taxa. Six new species were described in 1991 (Jones 1991) and two more have been named recently (Jones & French 2012, Jones & French 2013). A distinctive species with similarities to both *D. corymbosa* Lindley and *D. magnifica* D.L.Jones is described here as new.

Materials and Methods

Descriptions of the new taxon were made from fresh specimens. Unless otherwise indicated, all types of *Diuris* relevant to this study (or photographs thereof), and collections cited, have been seen by us.

Taxonomy

1. *Diuris tinkeri* D.L.Jones & C.J.French, *sp. nov.* With affinity to *Diuris magnifica* D.L.Jones, but differing by its smaller flatter flowers held obliquely erect to the plane of the rhachis, floral segments held flat in profile, erect petals and stiffly decurved lateral sepals. *Diuris tinkeri* also has affinities with *D. corymbosa* Lindley which has smaller flowers without purple tones.

Type: Western Australia. Western Flora Caravan Park (22km north of Eneabba), 4 Sep. 1997, D.L.Jones 15305 & A.Tinker (holo CANB 647841; iso MEL, PERTH).



Diuris tinkeri
Eneabba, WA
210894

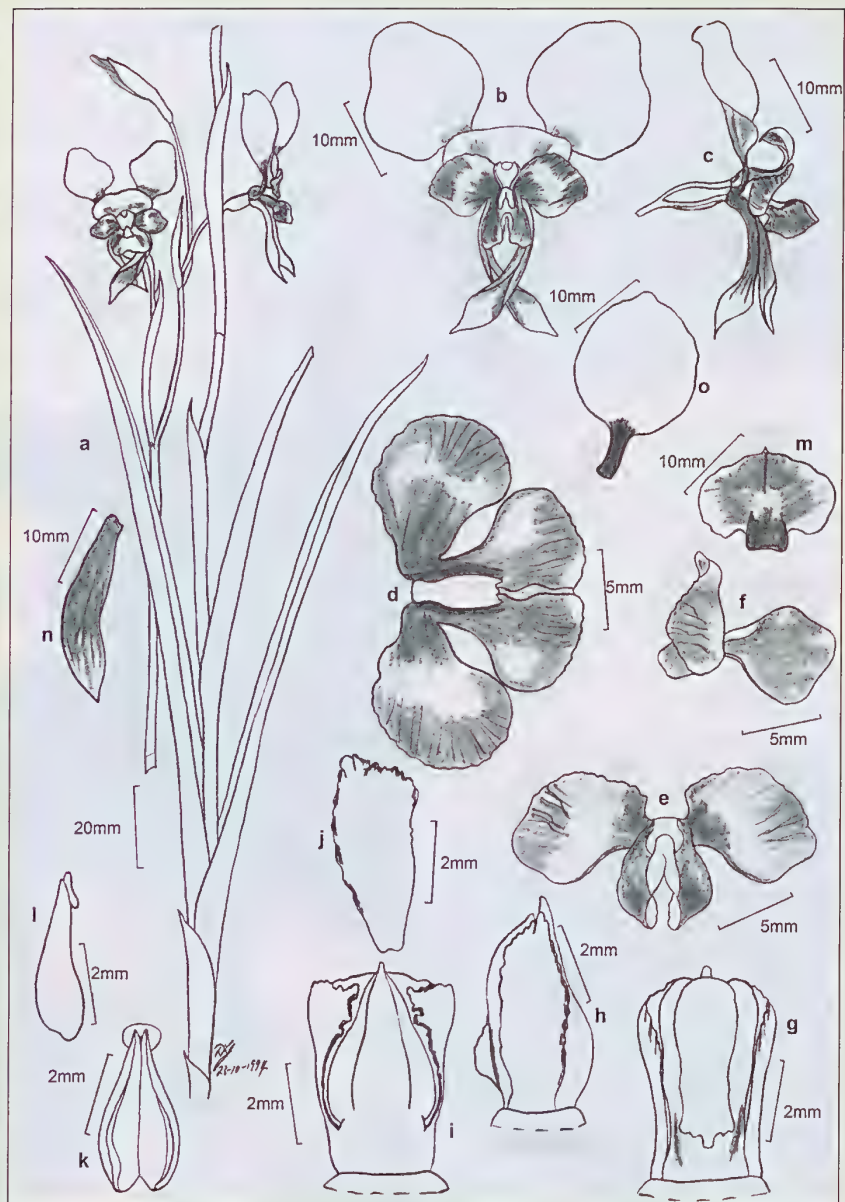
Illustration: Page 470, Hoffmann & Brown, third edition (2011) – as *Diuris* sp. 'Arrowsmith'; Florabase (<http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/>) as *Diuris* sp. Eneabba (A.H. Burbidge 3941).

Description: *Leaves* two or three, linear to linear-lanceolate, 8–25 cm long, 4–7 mm wide. *Scape* 25–50 cm tall, one-seven-flowered. *Pedicels* 20–50 mm long. *Flowers* porrect, 28–40 mm long, 22–30 mm across, mostly yellow with reddish petal stalks and reddish-purple to purple suffusions on the labellum lobes, the exterior surface of all segments stained with red-brown; lateral sepals reddish-brown with green tips. *Dorsal sepal* transversely ovate, 10–13 mm long, 12–16 mm wide. *Lateral sepals* stiffly deflexed, crossed, straight or slightly recurved, narrowly oblong, 15–22 mm long, 2.5–3.5 mm wide, slightly falcate. *Petals* obliquely erect, divergent, 18–24 mm long; claw linear, 3–5 mm long, 1–1.5 mm wide, straight or curved, reddish-brown; lamina broadly elliptic, 12–18 mm long, 9–13 mm wide. *Labellum* 8–12 mm long, porrect with a decurved apex, deeply 3-lobed; lateral lobes spreading widely, tips straight or slightly recurved, asymmetrically oblong, 8–10 mm long, 4–6 mm wide; mid-lobe broadly cuneate, 8–12 mm long, 8–11 mm wide, narrow at the base then widely flared; anterior margins entire; apex entire or slightly emarginate. *Labellum callus* consisting of a single yellow ridge 4–6 mm long, smooth. *Column* porrect from the end of the ovary, 4.5–5 mm long, c. 3.5 mm wide. *Column wings* lanceolate, c. 5 mm long, c. 1.5 mm wide, cream to yellowish with irregular margins. *Anther* narrowly ovate, c. 4.5 mm long, c. 2.8 mm wide, cream with purple-brown markings. *Pollinarium* c. 4 mm long, c. 2.5 mm wide. *Stigma* cordate to quadrate, c. 3.5 mm long, c. 2.5 mm wide. *Capsules* not seen.

Distribution and ecology: *Diuris tinkeri* grows within c. 50 km of the coast, extending from just inland and just south of Geraldton to just north of Yanchep. In the southern part of its range it grows in *Banksia* woodland on well-drained sand; further north in low shrubland and kwongan in well-drained white sand and sand over laterite. It also occasionally occurs around the margins of winter-wet swamps. It flowers freely without fire. Flowering occurs mid August to early October.

Recognition: This species is characterised by relatively large flat (in profile) colourful flowers that are mainly yellow with reddish-purple markings in the labellum, broadly elliptical petal laminae, straight dorsal sepal and relatively long lateral sepals crossed beneath the labellum, but not recurved.

Similar species: This species has similarities to *D. magnifica* but has a more northerly distribution, although overlapping within the southern parts of its range. It can be distinguished from *D. magnifica* by its slightly smaller flowers



Diuris tinkeri

a. flowering plant; b. flower from front; c. flower from side; d. labellum from above, flattened; e. labellum from front; f. labellum from side; g. column from front; h. column from side; i. column from rear; j. column wing; k. pollinarium from above; l. pollinarium from side; m. dorsal sepal; n. lateral sepal; o. petal. © D.L. Jones 23 October 1994

that are held obliquely erect to the plane of the rhachis. Additionally the floral segments are all in a more or less flat plane with neither the petals nor the lateral sepals recurved which they do in *D. magnifica*. *Diuris tinkeri* also has similarities to *D. corymbosa* but the flowers of the new species are significantly larger with bright purplish tones in the labellum.

Notes: This species has been listed as the 'Arrowsmith Donkey Orchid' (Hoffman & Brown 2011) while the

Western Australian Herbarium currently apply the phrase name *Diuris* sp. Eneabba (A.H. Burbidge 3941) to this species.

Conservation status: Widespread, common and conserved in some Nature Reserves.

Etymology: Named after Allan Tinker (1942-), naturalist and proprietor of the Western Flora Caravan Park who recognised the distinctiveness of this species.



Diuris tinkerii
Western Flora
Caravan Park, WA
210894

Selected specimens: WESTERN AUSTRALIA. N of Eneabba, Western Flora Caravan Park, 21 Aug. 1994, *C.J.French (D.L.Jones 13224)* (CANB); Eneabba Hot Bread Shop, adjacent block, 21 Aug. 1994, *C.J.French (D.L.Jones 13227)* (CANB); Brand Highway, 150 m S of Arrowsmith River crossing, 12 Aug. 1995, *C.J.French (D.L.Jones 14161)* (CANB); Twyata Nature Reserve, just N of Badgingarra, 30 Sept. 1996, *C.J.French 411* (CANB); Minyulo Nature Reserve, 17 Sept. 2000, *C.J.French 2506* (CANB); Bundarra Nature Reserve, 21 Sept. 2001, *C.J.French 3047* (CANB); Cowalla Road, 7.2 km S of Orange Springs Road, 21 Sept. 2001, *C.J.French 3049* (CANB); Brand Highway, 15.7 km N of Western Flora Caravan Park, 3 Sept. 1997, *D.L.Jones 15266* (CANB); c. 500 m S of Arrowsmith River bridge, Brand Highway, 3 Sept. 1997, *D.L.Jones 15273* (CANB); Twyata Nature Reserve, near river, 4 Sept. 1997, *D.L.Jones 15326* (CANB, PERTH); Phoebe Nature Reserve, just E of Badgingarra, 4 Sept. 1997, *D.L.Jones 15328* (CANB); 17 km E of Badgingarra towards Moora, 4 Sept. 1997, *D.L.Jones 15329* (CANB).



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Diuris tinkeri
Western Flora
Caravan Park, WA
210894

Acknowledgements

Much appreciation to Anna Monroe for help with specimens at CANB; also the directors and curators at CANB and PERTH for giving us access to specimens. We also thank Jean Egan for preparing the drawing for publication, Mark Clements for access to photos of type specimens, Marion Garrett and Karina Richards for technical assistance. Special appreciation to Garry Brockman, Andrew Brown, Nye Evans, Barbara Jones, Allan and Lorraine Tinker and the late Bill Jackson for companionship on field trips.

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David L. Jones

Kalaru, NSW, 2550

Email: dabajones@bigpond.com

Christopher J. French

Bateman, WA, 6150

Email: mail4cjfrench@gmail.com

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Exhibition Cattleyas bred by the late Mr Gordon Vallance

Text and photos by Bob Saunders

The late Gordon Vallance pioneered the way with his dedicated breeding of exhibition-style *Cattleya* alliance hybrids. He produced an array of award quality hybrids at his nursery (Gordon Vallance's Orchid Nursery) on the far north coast of New South Wales.

His legacy lives on in the orchid world with the amazing orchids he produced. Fittingly, one of his best hybrids was named in his honour. *Brassolaeliocattleya* Memoria Gordon Vallance is the cross between Blc. Brunswick Blush and Blc. Chincogan. It produced some stunning white (albino) progeny as well as some classic lavenders. *Rhyncholaeliocattleya*

(abbreviation *Rcl.*) is the term some orchid enthusiasts are now using for this tri-generic hybrid.

The following selection of hybrids are plants I am growing at Casino, and were all hybridised by Gordon. These photos are just a sample of what he achieved in the world of *Cattleyas*. So fittingly a friend's legacy will be remembered for many years to come.

Bob Saunders
Casino, NSW

Email: bobclairesaunders@dodo.com.au



B/c. Mem. Gordon Vallance
'Aussi'



B/c. Mem. Gordon Vallance
'BJ'



B/c. Mem. Gordon Vallance
'Friend'
HCC/NSW



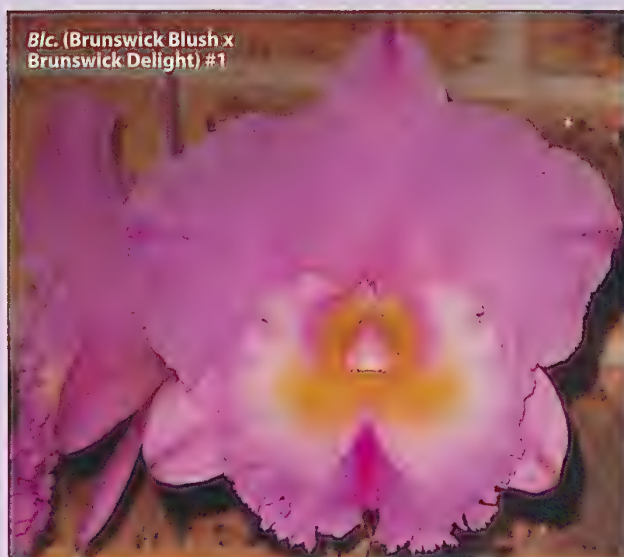
B/c. Mem. Gordon Vallance
'Snow Girl'



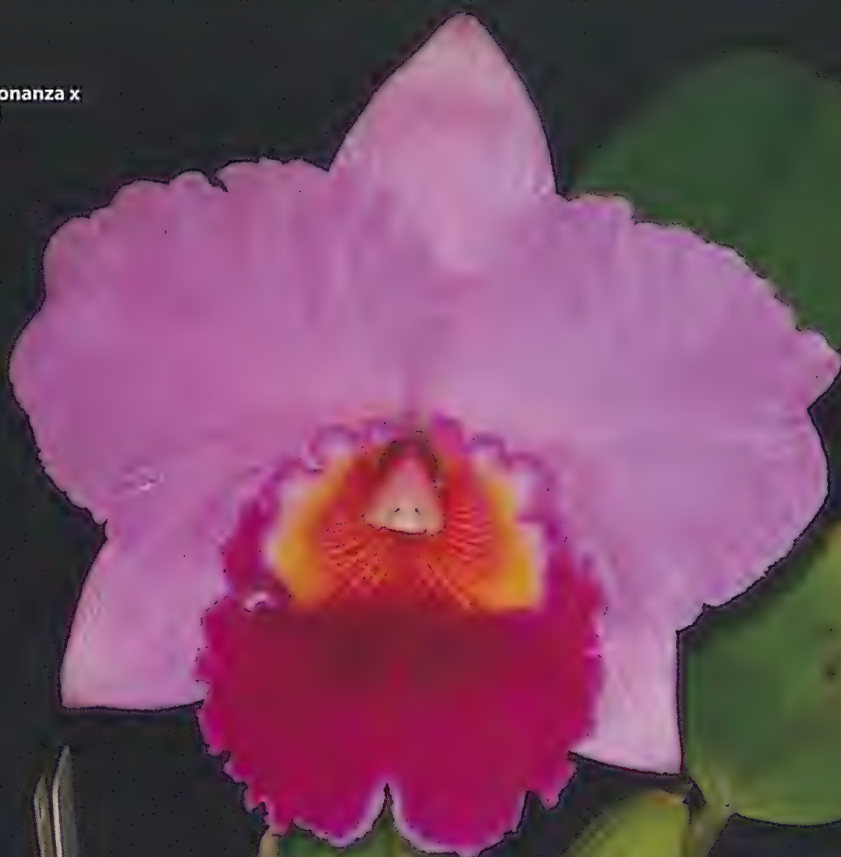
B/c. Mem. Gordon Vallance
'Claire'



B/c. Mem. Gordon Vallance
'Snow Queen'



B/c. (Brunswick Bonanza x
Brunswick Blush)



B/c. (Sylvia Fry x
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Tinonee Orchids 2013 Open Day *and* Show

by Ray Clement

There were again some outstanding plants exhibited at this year's 2013 Tinonee Orchids Open Day & Show, with many exhibitors and an impressive array and variety of choice orchids. The early-flowering Australian native *Dendrobium* hybrids are always a feature, with many proven cultivars and new seedlings benched by a number of seasoned enthusiasts such as Henk van den Berg and Wayne Perrin.

We were blessed with perfect weather over the weekend. This provided the perfect atmosphere for reacquainting friendships old & new in a very relaxed and informal environment. The BBQ was very popular, providing a great backdrop for friendly orchid chat.

Dendrobium (Lustrous x Riversun) was the Champion Australian Native Hybrid, owned by Wayne Perrin. Best *Cymbidium* went to Rob Wells' plant of *Cymbidium* Cindy Lou 'Forever True'. Doug Hugo won Best Specimen with a wonderful exhibit of *Oncidium sotoanum* (the species previously misinterpreted as *Oncidium ornithorhynchum*). First Prize in the *Cattleya* alliance Hybrids was won by Julie & Phillip Nicholas for their well grown plant of *Blc. Dream Trader* 'Treasure'. Wally Rhodes won Best *Paphiopedilum* hybrid with *Paphiopedilum* Altostratus 'Doug', a nice peppered pink to white bloom. Some of these exhibits are showcased in these images by David Banks.

A new initiate we started this year, was a free Orchid Workshop held on the Saturday. This was sponsored by the AOR and featured a free sausage sizzle at lunchtime. This year, our speakers were Ray Clement on "An Introduction to Orchids", Scott Barrie from Barrita Orchids on "Getting the most out of your *Cymbidiums*", Michael Harrison from Macquarie Native Orchids on "Growing

Epiphytic Orchids on Mounts and Slabs" and David Banks from Hills District Orchids on "Growing and Selecting the Best Orchids for your Collection". It was a very successful and enjoyable workshop, that we will repeat in 2014. On the Sunday, we again featured potting demonstrations and advice from experienced local orchid growers such as Rob Wells (*Cymbidiums*), Dennis Sinclair

(Australian *Dendrobiums*) and Wally Rhodes (Slipper Orchids – *Paphiopedilums*).

Next year's annual Tinonee Orchids Open Day and Show will be held on Sunday 6th July 2014 at the nursery, 768 Tinonee Road, Tinonee (just out of Taree, on the NSW Mid-north Coast). This will be our 20th Annual Open Day! Contact the nursery on 02 6553-1012 for further details. There is plenty of accommodation available close-by in Taree and Wingham.

We will also have some special plants for first release and others at special discounts. Food and light refreshments will be available all day. We will again be running a raffle of donated prizes and all proceeds will be given to support Retina Australia – Fighting Blindness (www.retinaaustralia.com.au) and research into Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), a genetic degenerative eye disease. Close to \$600 was raised at the 2013 Open Day.

The team at Tinonee Orchids is very proud to have the opportunity of supporting Retina Australia, and has done so for over a decade. ■

Ray Clement
Tinonee Orchids,
Tinonee, NSW

Email: orchids@tinoneeorchids.com
www.tinoneeorchids.com



Above: *Dendrobium* (Lustrous x Riversun) Champion Australian Native Hybrid for Wayne Perrin

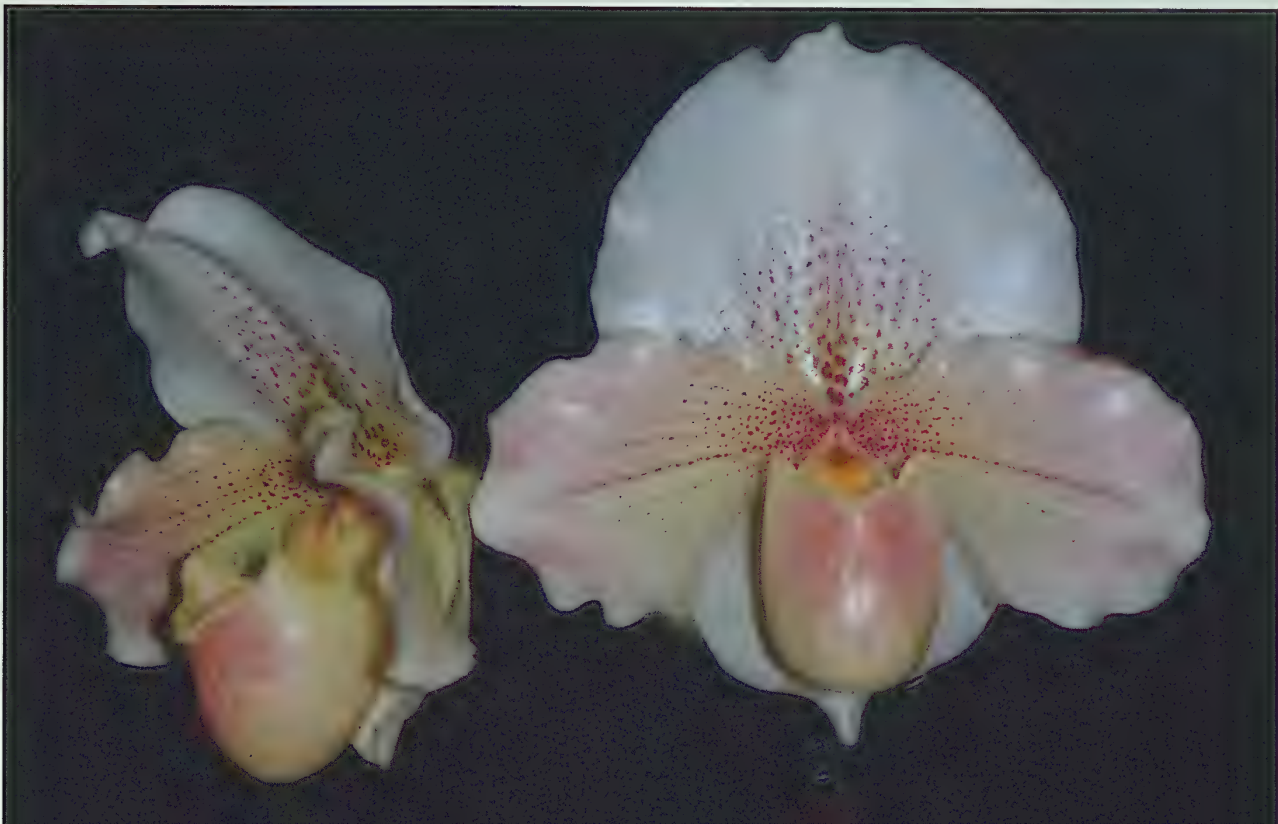


Above: *Cymbidium* Cindy Lou 'Forever True' owned by Rob Wells



Above: *Brassolaeliocattleya* Dream Trader 'Treasure'
owned by Julie & Phillip Nicholas

Below: *Paphiopedilum Altostratus* 'Doug' owned by Wally Rhodes





Above: *Sophronitis coccinea* owned by G & C Morris

Below: *Dendrobium Avril's Gold 'Cheryl'* owned by Henk van den Berg





Above: *Cymbidium Lady Angela 'Paula'* AM/AOC owned by Barrita Orchids
 Below left: *Cymbidium Kulnura Venus* owned by Barrita Orchids

Below right: *Cymbidium Dorothy Stockstill 'Forgotten Fruit'*
 AM/AOS owned by Tinonee Orchids





Above: *Barkeria scandens* owned by Tinonee Orchids

Below left: *Z. Advance Australia* x *Zga. Adelaide Meadows*
owned by G. Young & C. Farrell



Below right: *Laelia Santa Barbara Sunset* 'Showtime' HCC/AOS
owned by Tinonee Orchids





Above: Scott Barrie of Barrita Orchids discussing all things to do with Cymbidiums

Left: *Dendrobium tetragonum*
Variegated – albomarginate form
(var. *giganteum* x var. *melaleucaphilum*)

Below: Ray Clement of Tinonee Orchids giving sound orchid advice



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My Five Favourite Species Orchids

Text & photos by Alan Hope

1. *Mediocalcar bifolium* J. J. Smith

The genus *Mediocalcar* is centred in New Guinea and the surrounding islands. It comprises around 20 species, the most western being *M. bicolor* from Ambon Island (Indonesia) and the most eastern being *M. paradoxum* from Samoa.

J.J. Smith described *Mediocalcar* in 1900 with *M. bifolium*, discovered in the 1890s in Dutch New Guinea (now Irian Jaya), being chosen as the type species. Its two closest relatives, *M. monticola* Schltr. and *M. luteo-coccineum* Schltr. were recorded in 1908 growing in mist-forest at between 2000-2300m in the north-eastern ranges of what is now Papua New Guinea.

Mediocalcar are generally small and tend to be cool to intermediate growing, reflecting the high altitudes (800m-2300m) at which most are found. They grow in forested areas, their growth habits ranging from mat forming to creeping and/or rambling; the two-leaved *M. bifolium* fits more into the latter type.

R. Schlechter (1914), commenting on the then known *Mediocalcar* species, indicated that most are typical mist-forest epiphytes that grow on the thicker branches of the taller trees, some with a creeping habit and some erect. Some distinctive features he highlighted were that "they are never found below 800m" and "they usually grow in places where the branches are free of moss, and their thin roots may dry again soon after rain". (*The Orchidaceae of German New Guinea*, 298-302, The Australian Orchid Foundation, 1982.)



Mediocalcar bifolium

A free draining medium is therefore essential for their successful culture. While I have used both mounts and squat pots, the rambling habit of *M. bifolium* makes it difficult to contain this species in a pot over time. I find that *M. bifolium* does best mounted on a fern slab as this mount holds some moisture and still allows the plant to wander. This is in contrast to its popular cousin, *M. decoratum*, which forms a more manageable mat type growth and grows well in either a squat pot or on a mount.

The flowers of *M. bifolium* are produced singly and on a short peduncle. Their connate shape, formed by the joined sepals forming a tube, is distinctive and although the flowers are small, approximately 10mm, their bright scarlet colouring with contrasting snow white tips makes them eye catching. Additionally, *M. bifolium* provides a welcome bonus by flowering in both spring and autumn.

2. *Oncidium loefgrenii* Cogniaux

This miniature species is found in the cooler south-eastern region of the Organ Mountain range in southern Brazil and extends into the drier savannahs. It is a cool to intermediate grower and is subject to moist conditions all year in its natural habitat.

O. loefgrenii is one of eight species grouped in the *Paucituberculata* Section of *Oncidium*. As well as having very small flowers of around 10mm (sepals and petals 5mm), the species in this Section possess leaf-bearing pseudobulbs which are clustered together. This makes them good subjects for cultivation in pots or on mounts.

In the 1830s when most of this group was discovered, *O. loefgrenii* was mistakenly treated as *O. raniferum*. *O. loefgrenii*



Oncidium loefgrenii

is remarkably similar to both *O. raniferum* and *O. hookeri* which are also in the same section. It was only recently raised by Cogniaux to species status, with the differently structured, multi-lobed callus of *O. loefgrenii* being one of its distinguishing features.

I grow *O. loefgrenii* on fern mounts. Although I have used small pots with a bark and coir mix, the fine roots of the plants tend to rot if the mix remains damp over winter. The fern mounts enable better root growth and also supply a more even moisture regime.

3. *Pleurothallis grobyi* Bateman ex. Lindl.

P. grobyi was brought to England from Guyana in the early 1800s. It is a widespread orchid, being found in Mexico, the West Indies and Central America through to southern Brazil. *P. grobyi* was first described in 1835 by Lindley who named it in honour of Lord Grey of Groby. At the time, it was known to have 30 different local names across this large area.

P. grobyi is an intermediate to cool growing species, growing naturally from sea level to 1500m in densely forested areas. It copes well in a cool glasshouse, and seems to prefer a quick draining mount; a hard tree-fern mount would also be suitable. The small plants make up a thick clump of leaves of 35-55mm in diameter and their very fine root system attaches firmly to the mount.

Flowering in my conditions takes place twice a year in spring and early autumn. The 5-10 small (5mm) flowers are borne on a thin wiry raceme and tend to open together. Colour is light green, changing to yellow with some purple markings when mature. This is a true miniature which is an eye catching mass of colour when four or five racemes are in flower. The flowers last around three weeks but a hot spell will see some of the lower flowers falling earlier.

4. *Coelogyne mooreana* Sand. ex Rolfe

Described in 1907, *C. mooreana* was named in honour of F. W. Moore, then Director of the Glasnevin Botanical Gardens in Dublin, Ireland. *C. mooreana* is endemic to Vietnam, being discovered at around 1300m altitude in the volcanic Lang Bian Mountains near Dalat, part of the central highlands of Vietnam.

With its large white flowers *C. mooreana* is one of the most beautiful species in the large *Coelogyne* genus which now numbers almost 200 species. A number of cultivars of *C. mooreana* have been recognised as noteworthy and some are still grown, such as 'Brockhurst' and 'Westonbirt'.

My plants are happy in a cool glasshouse and require no additional heating in winter. I use a bark based mix and 20cm (or larger) plastic pots as the clustered bulbs with their large leaves soon fill up the pot. I have found the plants take some time to settle down after being re-potted or broken up and I therefore prefer to leave a plant undisturbed for as long as possible. Flowering is from the new growths and this makes for an attractive display.

Coming from a cloud forest environment, *C. mooreana* appreciates good air movement and dappled shade at all times. Extra protection is provided in summer with added shade and use of an evaporative cooler. In my conditions the main flowering tends to be in spring and autumn; however, single racemes may flower at odd times as the new growths don't necessarily mature simultaneously when plants are grown cool.

I hang the plants in an area where they are in dappled shade and receive good air movement. The regular use of an evaporative cooler in summer and misting on the hottest days is also beneficial. While the plants appear to grow throughout the year I provide a drier rest in winter to allow for the colder conditions at this time.

Flowering occurs in early March (autumn) in my conditions. The 15-25cm branching racemes produce a horizontal display of 10-15 bright yellow flowers that stand out in the glasshouse. The flowers tend to open sequentially and last for 3-4 weeks.



The inflorescences emerge rapidly from within the new leaf growth and flowers open progressively from the bottom up. I find the racemes of *C. mooreana* 'Brockhurst' are generally arching while those of *C. mooreana* 'Westonbirt' tend to be more upright. The flowers of each also have subtle differences in shape, colour and substance. However, both examples produce from six to eight or more superior 10cm flowers of glistening white with contrasting orange lips, and keep in good condition for around 3-4 weeks. *C. mooreana* is truly a magnificent orchid.

5. *Dendrobium densiflorum* Wall ex (Lindl 1831)

Dendrobium densiflorum is a wide-ranging species found from northern Thailand, Myanmar (Burma), Bangladesh, the countries of the Himalayan foothills including Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim, and south-west China.

D. densiflorum was initially found in the tropical Himalayan foothills of north-eastern India that is now Bangladesh. Initially *D. densiflorum* was treated as a sub-variety of *D. thyrsiflorum*, a species that had been discovered in the 1850s in southern Myanmar (Burma) by the Rev. C. Parish. *D. thyrsiflorum* was later named by Reichenbach for the inverted cone shape of its flower spike when in bud; this inverted cone shape of the flower spike is shared with *D. densiflorum*.

D. densiflorum grows at moderate to high altitudes (1000m to 1800m), as an epiphyte in forest areas and a lithophyte in rocky areas. It can become a large plant, with its four angled canes reaching 30-40cm in length and 1.5-2cm or more in width. In physical attributes *D. densiflorum* is almost indistinguishable from the related species *D. thyrsiflorum*, *D. farmeri*, and *D. chrysotoxum*. Apart from their flowers, the canes, leaves and plant habits are similar; it is little wonder there has been confusion between these species in published material and with growers.

D. densiflorum grows in cool to intermediate conditions. It requires good light at all times without burning, and a distinct dry rest during winter. Some years ago while in Chiang Mai, Thailand, I visited a local plant nursery. When I enquired about dendrobiums the proprietor showed me a large box of completely dehydrated canes. Despite my look of disbelief, the nurseryman assured me they were plants of both *D. densiflorum* and *D. thyrsiflorum*, and that they would grow and flower perfectly with the next monsoonal rains!

I grow my plants of *D. densiflorum* and the other three species under plasticised shade cloth in a protected area facing north. This area is subject to good air movement and light, and the cover allows the plants to dry out over winter. *D. thyrsiflorum* is normally the first to flower in mid-October, followed by *D. densiflorum* about two weeks later and *D. chrysotoxum*, with its shiny wax-like flowers, in mid-December. Of the four species *D. farmeri* is a reluctant flowerer for me. It is a warmer grower and dislikes the winter cold spells. I grow it on a mount and the reward of an occasional pink-tinged flower spike makes me persevere.

However, each year I look forward to when the pendulous inflorescences of *D. densiflorum* burst into flower. The creamy-white flower spikes emerge almost overnight and the 30 or more densely packed and fragrant yellow flowers follow shortly after. Their deep orange fimbriated lips are a highlight and even though the flowers have a relatively short life of around two weeks (can be less if any hot spells occur), this *Dendrobium* is spectacular.



After flowering is finished and when the new growths appear I recommence normal watering and fertilising of this group of dendrobiums. I also re-pot plants at this time if required, but given the hot summer weather that can occur in December/January I choose a cool day and keep plant disturbance to a minimum.

Alan Hope

Melbourne, Victoria

Ph: 03 9817 4871

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Orchid Postage Stamps of Australia

I've always been a stamp collector, before I grew orchids, but recently I re-housed my orchid stamps together and then I realised I had quite a collection from Australia and Overseas. I purchased a few more to fill in the gaps, and then was tempted by a few more ones, and lo and behold, I can't stop! At least they don't take up as much room as the plants.

A collection of a particular subject of stamps is called "Thematics". I'm happy I have a name for my new addiction!

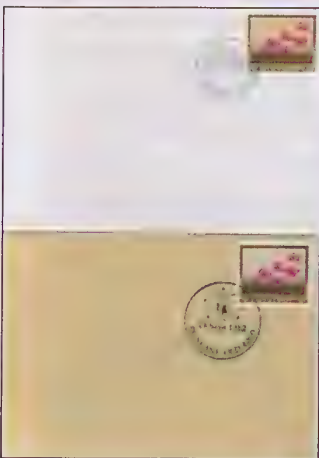
State Floral Emblems 1968



The first orchid to be specifically honoured in postage stamps was the Cooktown Orchid on 10 July 1968. It was part of a set of 6 State Floral Emblems. The 6c Kangaroo Paw from Western Australia, the 13c Pink Heath from Victoria, the 15c Blue Gum from Tasmania, the 20c Sturts Desert Pea from South Australia, the 25c Cooktown Orchid from Queensland and the 30c Waratah from New South Wales.

The Cooktown Orchid was proclaimed as the Queensland State Floral Emblem in 1959 under the botanical name of *Dendrobium bigibbum* var. *phalaenopsis*, however this name is still the subject of debate. When Queensland prepared for its centenary, it sought advice on the choice of its floral emblem. The Brisbane Courier Mail conducted a poll from 13 species and 10,917 entries were received, with the Cooktown Orchid being named the winner by a significant margin. It conformed with the Governments criteria of being an easily cultivated native species confined to Queensland, decorative and distinctive in appearance and it is close to the States colour of maroon.

Postage Paid Pre-Stamped Envelopes 1981 & 1982

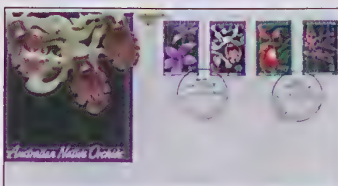


It was to be another 13 years before a pre-stamped envelope featuring the Cooktown Orchid was released on 28th September 1981. It was the standard postage rate at the time of 24c. The same image was used again on 24th September 1982, except for a change of denomination to 27c. It had a white border around the image and it was printed on a buff coloured envelope, as opposed to the previous white one, to avoid any confusion.

Australian Native Orchids 1986

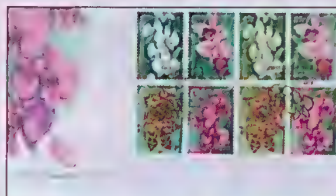


A set of 4 Native Orchids was issued in 1986. They were the 36c *Elythranthera emarginata*, the stunning native endemic to Western Australia, the 55c *Dendrobium nindii*, from the Queensland tropics, the 90c *Caleana major*, and the \$1 *Thelymitra variegata*, the extravagantly coloured Western Australian endemic. The botanical names were used on the stamps, but the common names of the pink enamel



orchid, blue orchid, duck orchid and Queen of Sheba were listed in some stamp reference guides, which is confusing for stamp collectors with no orchid knowledge, trying to identify the stamps.

Australia-Singapore Joint Issue 1998



Native Orchids were again featured in the 1998 Australia-Singapore joint issue. The 45c *Phalaenopsis rosenstromii*, 85c *Arundina graminifolia*, \$1 *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, and \$1.20 *Dendrobium phalaenopsis*.

Again the common names are listed in some stamp guides, and a magnifying glass is needed to read the botanical names on the stamps. First Day Covers, mini sheets and very attractive colourful maxi cards were produced in this issue. Maximum or Maxi cards, are picture postcards bearing postage stamp and postmark relevant to the picture on the card. The design on the stamp usually mirrors that on the postcard. The postage stamp is usually affixed to the pictured side to heighten the effect.

Nature of Australia - Rainforest 2003



stamped is a First Day Cover with an orchid cancellation of Mossman, the home of this epiphytic orchid. Postmarks that link the stamp subject to the town are of the most philatelic interest.

The next issue was a single issue of a \$1.45 *Dendrobium nindii* (blue orchid), was released on 11 February 2003, under the title of Nature of Australia - Rainforest. Pictured along with the

Australian Wildflowers 2006



Hakea, \$2 Donkey Orchid, \$5 Mangles Kangaroo Paw and \$10 Waratah.

The final orchid stamp, featuring an un-named terrestrial Donkey Orchid (*Diuris*) appeared in another set of Australian Wildflowers on 7th Feb 2006. This higher denomination definitive issue included the \$1 Pincushion

It is a pity that so few orchid stamps have been produced in Australia. Compared to other countries we are well behind in quantity, and they lack the stunning colours, graphics and design of their overseas counter-parts. The elaborately embossed orchid issues from French Polynesia have to be seen to be believed. But that's a story for another day!

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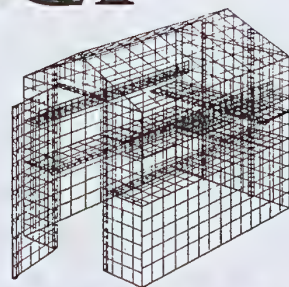
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AOFR 164



Use of the Insecticide Dimethoate Suspended on many Food Crops

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has suspended the use of dimethoate on a number of food crops due to potential dietary risks. This chemical is also widely used amongst orchid growers for control of mealy bugs and various scale insects on these ornamentals.

New restrictions have been put into place that allows dimethoate to be used only on certain horticultural crops. The announcement follows the release of the 2011 Dimethoate Residues and Dietary Risk Assessment Report (August) which found that its use on many crops could exceed the recommended public health standard (the Acute Reference Dose).

'Some of the estimated exposures for consumers are above the Acute Reference Dose, reducing, but not breaching, the margins of safety that are normally in place to protect consumers,' said Dr Raj Bhula, Pesticides Program Manager.

'These safety margins, built into the APVMA's risk assessment, provide a protective buffer to ensure that consumers will not actually be exposed to high levels of residues in food.'

'If our risk assessment shows that these standards could be exceeded, the APVMA must remove or modify the use of the chemical on the crop so that consumption remains in line with the public health standard.'

The suspension will last for 12 months while the Authority completes further assessments on the chemical. It prohibits:

- use of dimethoate on certain horticultural crops
- use on all food producing plants in the home garden
- supply and possession of dimethoate products unless they carry the new instructions for use.

'Possession and use on some crops can continue provided the products carry the new instructions for use. Product registrants are requested to inform all parts of the supply chain that new instructions have been issued by the APVMA. All products in the supply chain and the marketplace must contain the new instructions prior to sale.'

The new use instructions and answers to frequently asked questions about the dimethoate suspension are available on the APVMA website.

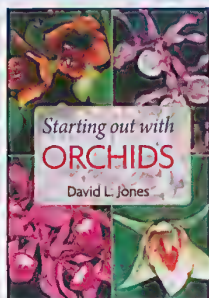
Ms Jenny Trustrum

Phone: +61 2 6210 4812

Email: jenny.trustrum@apvma.gov.au



Long-tailed mealy bug



STARTING OUT WITH ORCHIDS by David L. Jones

David Jones is arguably one of Australia's most prolific, precise and respected botanical and horticultural authors. The book is divided in two parts. Part One begins with the cultivation chapters, covering Easy Orchids for Beginners, General Cultivation Requirements, Growing Epiphytic Orchids, Growing Terrestrial Orchids, Orchid Pests and Diseases, Housing Your Orchids and Propagating Your Orchids. The information contained within these pages alone is required reading for all beginners through to experienced orchid growers. The text is very easy to read and understand with numerous sound cultivation tips and treatments discussed. There are many excellent and clear line illustrations that help describe terms or highlight diagnostic features. There are over 250 colour photographs.

Part Two discusses the orchids themselves with concise information on each species. They are grouped primarily according to climatic requirements, starting with cool growing orchids progressing to the warm growers, in alphabetical sequence first with terrestrial genera, followed by the epiphytes. Both Australian and exotic species are treated together. For each entry there is specific detailed information on each species, as well as a simple table giving the basic cultivation needs and flowering season. A glossary is also included to explain unfamiliar terms.

240 pages, colour.
210mm x 148mm.
Softcover.

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ORCHID SPECIES OF THE SHOALHAVEN: NSW Australia by Alan W. Stephenson

Alan Stephenson lives in Nowra and is well placed to give the first botanical treatment of the native orchids of the Shoalhaven region. He has extended the distribution ranges of a number of uncommon and rare species, as well as discovering new taxa. This 68 page book is packed with both information and superb photography, almost exclusively taken by the author. All of the recorded orchid species native to the region are included and illustrated.

The introductory chapters discuss the area covered by this book, the structure of the orchid plants, their

natural habitats, parts of an orchid flower, orchid structure and the pollination of orchids. This is followed by the main section of the book that alphabetically lists and discusses each species, with information such as Common Names, Recent Synonyms, Flowering Time in the wild, plus a brief description of the plant, flowers and preferred habitat. There are many terrestrial species fully covered as well as a number of epiphytic and lithophytic genera that are found in the area.

The quality of the printing and colour reproductions are sparking. This is a wonderful field guide that will aid even the most novice naturalist or native orchid enthusiast and confidently assist them in identifying examples they encounter in the field. It represents excellent value, as it also covers many species found naturally along the East Coast of New South Wales.

68 pages,
225 colour photos.
210mm x 148mm.
Softcover.

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ORCHIDS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

by Andrew Brown, Pat Dundas,
Kingsley Dixon & Stephen Hopper

Written by three of Western Australia's most prominent orchidologists and featuring over 200 full-page, colour illustrations by renowned botanical artist Pat Dundas, *Orchids of Western Australia* is the first modern text cataloguing all 409 known species.

This comprehensive resource for hardened enthusiasts and initiates alike features a wealth of information in a single volume - from a detailed introduction to WA orchids to information on each species, including who named them, where they were first collected, their habitat, distribution, flowering period, size and distinguishing features. This book is the culmination of decades of work by WA's foremost experts, each dedicated to the conservation of one of the world's most important regional orchid floras.



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ORCHIDS IN YOUR GARDEN

How to grow orchids in
the backyard
by Robert Friend

It sounds too good to be true, but orchids are as easy to grow in the backyard as a lawn or a bed of roses. Despite their exotic reputation, the everyday gardener can grow orchids without special pots or greenhouses.

The book shows you how to introduce orchids into the garden, by attaching them to trees, fixing them on rocks and walls, or planting them in garden beds. With more than 150,000

species and hybrids of orchids in the world, there are plants suitable for every garden.

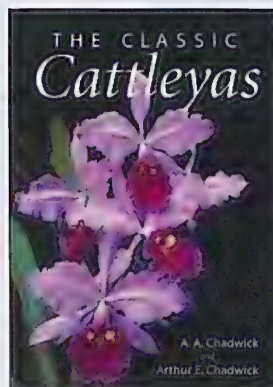
Robert Friend draws on a lifetime's experience with orchids to explain how to choose the right orchid for your climate and how to landscape orchids in different types of gardens. Ranging from tropical to cool climate areas, from large acreages to small courtyard gardens, almost every backyard can enjoy the best of one of nature's wonders.

144 pages.
Colour and B&W.

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THE CLASSIC CATTLEYAS by A.A. Chadwick and Arthur E. Chadwick

In 1818, William Cattley succeeded in flowering one of the first species of the genus that would bear his name. These first cattleyas are the classic cattleyas, whose form defined the essence of tropical orchids for generations to come. Indeed, the colour of their flowers became known as "orchid." In this helpful and informative book, each classic *Cattleya* species (and cattleya-like *Laelia* species) is described in fascinating detail, and its role in breeding programs is elucidated. All that is required to appreciate and grow the large-flowered cattleyas successfully is included. There are ten line drawings and 162 wonderful colour photographs. Cultivation, humidity and watering, fertilising, propagation, and diagnosing and treating problems are detailed, making this volume valuable for both veteran orchid enthusiasts and those who simply love these beautiful flowers.



252 pages, colour.
260mm x 185mm.
Hardcover.

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ORCHID: THE FATAL ATTRACTION by Anne Ronse

The subject of orchids is one close to the heart of many floral designers. Some feel it's a privilege to work with these flowers and plants but others wonder how many designers investigate the orchid rather than just admire them. The text by Dr Anne Ronse is informative and enthusiastic and the photography is superlative! It's so good that the flowers literally drip off the pages capturing the imagination and the heart. If you want something special, are addicted to orchids and want to luxuriate in glorious

text and images; this is the book for you.

142 pages.
Colour. Hardcover.

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GROWING BROMELIADS (3rd Edition) by the Bromeliad Society of Australia

Many orchid growers also have a few "broms" in their collection and gardens. This is a revised 2006 edition of the highly successful book on growing and caring for bromeliads. This book was compiled and revised by experienced members of the Bromeliad Society of Australia.

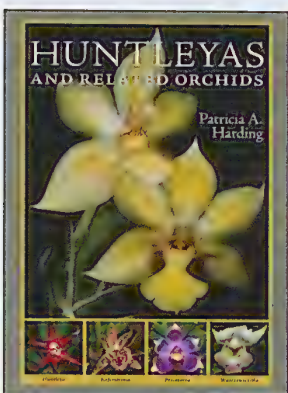
Growing Bromeliads describes how and where to grow over 200 species and hybrids, and details ten of the most popular genera with brief notes on the more unusual genera. The main genera covered are: Aechmea, Ananas, Billbergia, Cryptanthus, Dyckia and Hechtia, Guzmania, Neoregelia, Nidularium, Tillandsia, and Vriesea. Descriptions of the native habitats for each of the ten genera are given, enabling you to provide the right growing conditions for any of these species within these genera. In total, over 400 species/hybrids are discussed.

The book gives an interesting overview of the Bromeliad family, including a brief history of Bromeliad cultivation. There are also separate chapters on how to propagate these wonderful plants and on their unique botany. All of this is written in straightforward language with scientific terminology kept to a minimum. This new 128 page updated Third Edition includes: a new chapter on Australian hybrids; ten new species; new chemical treatment for bromeliads and recent name changes.

Growing Bromeliads is a great introduction to growing bromeliads in Australia. As such, it is a very useful book for someone who has a few bromeliads and wishes to find out more about how to grow them.

128 pages, 100 colour photos. Softcover.

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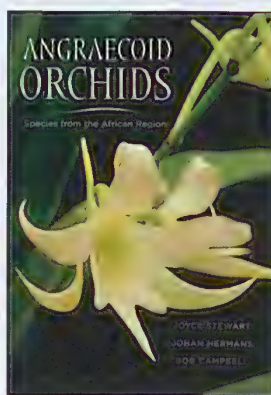
HUNTLEYS AND RELATED ORCHIDS by Patricia A. Harding

Revered by avid orchid collectors for its delightful, star-shaped flowers, *Huntleya* is a small group of orchids found low in the forest. *Huntleya* is a small orchid genus that includes fourteen species. They occur in wet cloud forests at medium altitudes of Guatemala, Costa Rica, South America down to Bolivia. The type species *Huntleya meleagris* also occurs in Trinidad. Besides their striking colours — from deep blue to waxy red, royal purple to almost black — flowers of this group are known for their distinctive shapes, patterns, and textures. As appealing as these lovely tropical orchids are, their identification has been

confused since the first species was described in the mid-1800s. Recent DNA studies have led to a clearer understanding of relationships and, as a result of this clarity, it is now possible to sort out the taxonomic problems and identify the characteristics that set species apart. In this first book devoted to the *Huntleya* alliance, author Patricia Harding presents evidence from the scientific literature, other growers, and her own experience that will enable orchid enthusiasts everywhere to identify their plants and grow them successfully. Patricia A. Harding is an accredited American Orchid Society judge who has been growing and photographing orchids for three decades.

260 pages, 150 colour photos. Hardcover.

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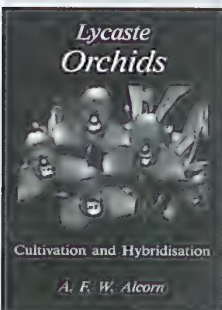
ANGRAECOID ORCHIDS: Species from the African Region by Joyce Stewart, Johan Hermans, and Bob Campbell

These so-called 'Jewels of Africa' with their sparkling flowers, distinctive growth habit and floriferous nature are much prized and this account, the first to include the Angraecoid orchids of both Africa and Madagascar, is long awaited. It brings together, in a single volume, descriptions of all 690 species in this intriguing group of orchids and will be the essential reference for all Angraecoid orchid enthusiasts for years to come. Including such horticulturally

important genera as *Angraecum*, *Aeranthes*, *Aerangis* and *Jumellea*. Stewart, Herman and Campbell have all spent time in various parts of eastern and southern Africa and precise ecological information relating to habitat, altitude preferences and flowering season of individual plants will be particularly helpful to growers. The diagnostic features of each genus are illustrated and over half the species are accompanied by exquisite photographs taken in both wild habitats and in cultivation.

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LYCASTE ORCHIDS - Cultivation and Hybridisation by A.F.W. Alcorn

Lycaste orchids are easy to grow, and they produce flowers that range from the beautiful to the bizarre. No book previously has provided detailed cultural requirements of the Lycaste, and this book should fill that gap, and encourage new growers to take up the cultivation of this beautiful genus. A section on hybridising contains valuable information on inheritance and genetics that will benefit any hybridiser, not just the grower of Lycastes, as well as helpful hints on how to avoid pitfalls in your hybridising program. Michael Hallett, a friend of

Fred Alcorn for a number of years, co-wrote this book with Fred and has completed it posthumously. He has a background in genetics, research and botany, and a passion for plants, especially orchids.

237 pages.
Colour and B&W.

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MASDEVALLIAS: Gems of the Orchid World by Mary E. Gerritsen and Ron Parsons

For the species orchid enthusiast, cool to intermediate orchid grower, or anyone simply "mad about Masdevallias," this is a first complete reference to these collectible new world orchids. An inspiring tribute to their beauty and a practical guide to their care, the book offers detailed advice on all aspects of culture. For those enthusiasts who are up to a challenge, chapters on propagating, showing, and registering Masdevallias are also

included. Ron Parsons is one of the finest nature photographers in the world and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of species orchids, with the genus *Masdevallia* being one of his favourites.

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Editorial copy:

Articles for publication and consideration should be sent to:
AOR Editor, David P. Banks, 39 Carole Street, Seven Hills, NSW 2147
Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

All other correspondence to:

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☎ 0433 422 792

Advertisers:

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All advertising bookings and enquiries should be directed to:

Caitlin Hoolahan ☎ 0433 422 792 Fax: (02) 9221 4242 or

Email: sales@australianorchidreview.com.au or

David Banks ☎ 0412 123 036 Email: david@hillsdistrictorchids.com

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2013 ORCHID EVENTS – What's on!

August 9-11 National Orchid Extravaganza
– Dural, NSW

August 16-18 St Ives Orchid Fair
– St Ives Showground, NSW

August 23-25 ANOS Conference and Show
– Brisbane, Qld

August 23-25 Victorian International Orchid Fair &
Melbourne Orchid Spectacular
– Cheltenham Rd, Keysborough, Vic

August 31-September 1 Speciosum Spectacular
– Kempsey, NSW

September 14-15 ANOS Sydney Spring Show
– Eden Gardens Nursery, North Ryde, NSW

September 19-21 Parramatta & District O.S. Spring
Orchid and Clivia Show – Winston Hills Mall, NSW

September 28-29 ANOS Victoria Spring Show
– Vic

September 29 Hills District Orchids
– Spring Open Day – Northmead, NSW

October 5-6 Canberra Orchid Society, South & West
Regional Orchid Show & Conference
– Wesley Centre, ACT

October 24-26 Northern River Orchid Species Society
– Lismore Central Shopping Centre, NSW

November 1-3 7th New Zealand National Orchid Expo
– New Plymouth, NZ
website: www.orchidcouncil.co.nz

Australian
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**For more
information:**

EASY ORCHIDS

3 Sussex Street, Woodburn NSW 2472
Ph: 02 6682 2635 Fax: 02 6682 2605
sales@easyorchids.com
www.easyorchids.com
A.B.N. 99 214 227 028